

A STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF WISCONSIN'S PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

February 28, 2011

Unitarian Universalism is a non-creedal, free thought tradition in which a variety of theological positions are represented. Although rooted in the Christian tradition, contemporary Unitarian Universalism holds that the search for spiritual insight and inspiration should be open-ended and broadly inclusive. We draw spiritual sustenance from sources ancient and modern, Biblical and non-Biblical. The movement ultimately exists to encourage, foster and support a common quest for lives of ever-increasing integrity, compassion, mutual understanding and justice.

Historically, Unitarians and Universalists have exercised leadership in the struggles for civil liberties, reproductive freedom, penal reform, LGBT rights, peaceful change and economic fairness. While upholding the right of individual conscience and the responsibility of principled dissent, Unitarian Universalists have routinely transcended their differences to defend the interests of the defenseless, the disenfranchised and the disadvantaged.

Thus the members of our movement have consistently opposed onerous restrictions on the ability of workers in the U.S. and abroad to organize and to bargain collectively. We fervently uphold the right of workers everywhere to secure for themselves a dignified livelihood, a living wage and a secure economic future for their families. Since the inception of the modern industrial age, it has been clear to us that it is our sacred responsibility as religious people to resist the forces of economic exploitation by ensuring that wage earners have the tools to become strong and self-determining. Thus, in keeping with our traditions and our individual consciences, the Unitarian Universalist clergy of Wisconsin urge our governor and state representatives to preserve the long-standing right of public sector employees to organize and to bargain collectively.

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Senior Minister, the First Unitarian Society of Madison

(signed by six state clergy, as of March 1)